

Abstract

A self-checkout lane in a store comprises an incoming goods path for receiving goods, first and second goods collection zones, and a segregation device operable under control of a computer processor to divert goods from the incoming goods path into one or the other of the two goods collection zones. The incoming goods path includes a product scanner electrically coupled to the computer processor and operable to evaluate the total retail price of a plurality of goods. The goods of a first customer are diverted to the first goods collection zone. After receiving payment for the goods, the computer processor operates the segregation device to allow the first customer to access their goods, and to meanwhile divert subsequent goods of a second customer to the second goods collection zone, thereby facilitating the swift and efficient use of the self-checkout terminals by customers. The invention also includes security means to help guard against misappropriation of goods.